CAPC

August 1, 1985

NATIVE COUNSELLING SERVICES OF ALBERTA

Kochee Mena Apartments

Native Counselling Services of Alberta's (NCSA) community residential centre, Kochee Mena Apartments opened its doors in November 1984. The Kochee Mena Apartments are for Native inmates being released from federal and provincial correctional institutions on day parole, full parole, mandatory supervision, and provincial temporary absence programs. The word "Kochee Mena" is a Cree word which expresses the philosophy behind the centre, "try again".

The apartment building has 12 suites for the housing of 20 Native residents: 16 from federal institutions and four from provincial institutions. The residents are referred to Kochee Mena by Institutional Case Management Teams, NCSA Liaison Officers (provincial institutions), NCSA Native Program Coordinators (federal institutions) and Corrections Services of Canada, Parole. All applicants are interviewed by the Kochee Mena Case Admissions Committee and must meet several admissions criteria. The admissions criteria include:

- previous offences;
- current convictions;
- length of present sentence;
- general attitude;
- institutional and community behaviour;
- client's personal goals.

The residents are required to stay a minimum of 30 days, the length of stay depending on need and the expiry date of the warrant. The average length of time residents stay at the apartments is three months.

Kochee Mena Apartments are designed to:

- assist the residents make a smooth transition back into daily community life;

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as [illegible] the resident to assume a responsible role as [illegible] member;

[illegible]ovide a facility that has a structured stable and supportive environment;

[illegible] the resident from re-offending;

[illegible]ist the residents to develop appropriate independent living skills;

[illegible]sist residents to establish realistic goals;

[illegible]ssist the residents to establish constructive work habits and [illegible] retention skills.

[illegible] NCSA Kochee Mena Apartments provide several in-house programs:

1. The Independent Living Skills Program assists residents in developing skills in independence and self-care.

[illegible] Native Culture and Spirituality Program provides the residents with the opportunity to interact with Elders, become aware of their culture, and instill pride about being Native. The residents have their own sweat lodge and pipe ceremonies.

The Alcoholics Anonymous Program assists residents to sustain [illegible] the use of alcohol and drugs.

The Individual Counselling Program assists the [illegible] establishing goals and improving their self-esteem.

The Job Placement Program assists residents to make realistic [illegible] and assists them in learning employment skills such as resume writing, job interview skills and [illegible] interviews.

The Family Support Program assists residents [illegible] ing for their return to their families by helping them [illegible] appropriate [illegible] with being [illegible] parents and with [illegible] communication.

In the event that a resident violates [illegible] he will be returned to the custody of the Court [illegible] notices [illegible] the [illegible] for [illegible] decision. [illegible] vio[illegible] the [illegible] at Kochee Mena [illegible] the [illegible] assist the residents make a smooth transition back [illegible] community [illegible] a last resort.

- assist the residents to assume a responsible role as a family member;
- provide a facility that has a structured stable and supportive environment;
- prevent the residents from re-offending;
- assist the residents to develop appropriate independent living skills;
- assist residents to establish realistic goals;
- assist the residents to establish constructive work habits and job retention skills.

The NCSA Kochee Mena Apartments provide several in-house programs:

1. The Independent Living Skills Program assists residents in developing skills in independence and self-care.
2. The Native Culture and Spirituality Program provides the residents with the opportunity to interact with Elders, become aware of their culture, and instill pride about being Native. The residents have their own sweat lodge and pipe ceremonies.
3. The Alcoholics Anonymous Program assists residents to abstain from the use of alcohol and drugs.
4. The Individual Counselling Program assists the residents in establishing goals and improving their self-esteem.
5. The Job Placement Program assists residents to make realistic career choices and assists them in learning employment skills such as resume writing, job retention skills and job interviews.
6. The Family Support Program assists residents in preparing for their return to their families by helping them with the expectations associated with being a parent and with effective communications.

In the event that a resident violates his conditions of release, he will be returned to the custody of the Correctional Services of Alberta or the National Parole Board for a decision. If the resident violates the conditions of his residency at Kochee Mena (such as the possession of alcohol or illicit drugs inside the residence), internal disciplinary action is taken. Residency is terminated only as a last resort.

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There are four counsellors and one night attendant at Kochee Mena. They are supervised by a Project Coordinator. Native house staff are given preference by NCSA because of the cultural aspects of the programs offered at Kochee Mena and the need for good background information about Native lifestyle and traditions. Native language skills are also necessary to communicate with some residents.

The funding for Kochee Mena Apartments is provided by the Correctional Service of Canada and the Provincial Solicitor General's Department.

DATE DUE

APR 12 '88		
JUN 26 '89		
RETURN OCT 23 '00		

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Kochee Mena Apartments.

Boreal Institute for Northern
Studies Library
CW 401 Bio Sci Bldg
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Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2E9

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